

A

T H E  
**R E L I G I O N**  
O F T H E  
**Church of England**

M O R E  
Sound, more Safe, more Primitive  
and Catholick than that of

**R O M E.**

I N A  
Private L E T T E R, thought very Seasonable ;  
A N D  
At the Request of divers Friends made Publick.

---

By a Lover of } Truth and Peace.  
                          } Loyalty and good Order.

*Laurence Womack*  
To the R O M A N S,

Cap. XI. v. 20, 21.

*Be not high minded, but fear; For if God spared not the natural  
branch, take heed lest he also spare not thee.*

Apoc. II. 5.

*Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and  
do thy first works.*

---

L O N D O N,

Printed for R. Clavell at the Peacock in St. Pauls Church-yard, 1679.

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TO THE COMMISSIONER

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T H E  
 RELIGION  
 OF THE  
 Church of *England*, &c.  
 I N  
 A PRIVATE LETTER.

S I R,

**S**ince I have known you so long, I am sorry I knew you no better. I assure you I intended to treat you as an entire Friend, but you wrest my words to a harsh construction. For Mr. S-- he was so far from giving any partial account, that he did not so much as positively say, you had left our Communion. I confess upon a vehement suspicion (for which we had other grounds) I took the freedom to tell you (what would fall under every ordinary apprehension,) that your departure would unavoidably expose you unto censure. That some would impute it to a hot head, others to a weak Judgment, and a third sort perhaps to discontent, that you were not gratified according to your great merits. Herein, Sir, I only plaid the part of a Rehearsal. For my own part, in

imputing what I had heard of you to a fit of the Spleen, I gave an evidence of my Charity, in regard you had formerly complain'd of such a fit as had unhing'd your faculties and stifled your Pen into a long silence; and sure, I could never reckon that for a fault in you, which I knew to be your infelicity and affliction. Hitherto therefore my carriage was very innocent. And (when I long'd so much to hear from you) if I were a little impatient at the disappointment, yet a little ingenuity would have given it a better interpretation than the want of common prudence; and a fast Friend would have taken it for an argument of a sincere affection. However I must lament my own loss; that what you intended for my information was, by such an unfortunate misadventure, cast into the common lot of waste Paper. But whatever the conception was which those Letters miscarried with, these give me an intimation of your present change. And to question whether this were *Mutatio dextra Altissimi*, a change wrought by the right hand of the Most High, were, no doubt, in your Judgment to make a breach upon Charity and Prudence both together. Yet seeing you applaud your self (as all such *Proselytes* use to do) that you have changed *Opinion* into *Faith*, and *Doubtfulness* into *Infallibility*; give me leave, for once, to enquire into the real advantage, you flatter your self to have purchased by your Separation from us. In order hereto I pray resolve me where the *Infallibility* is lodged, which you so much boast of; I presume you will not say, you have it in your own bosom; for that would smell a little too rank of arrogance; if you say, 'tis lodged in the person of the Pope, that is rendred very improbable; because it was not long since one of them professed that he was no Theologue, and consequently not fit to determine a point of Faith; and if we may believe some of the *Roman Writers* (besides Schism) Heresy, Infidelity and Atheism, have been found amongst them. And this Doctrine is so false and scandalous, that Mr. *White* makes it more criminal and damnable than despoiling of holy Virgins upon the Holy Altar †.

2. If you place your *Infallibility* in the diffusive body of the Clergy, or of Christians in general, That will be of no more advantage

† Vide  
Tabulæ  
Suffragia-  
les.



advantage to the determination of Controversies than the private Spirit, that is utterly unprofitable and useles; for why may we not find it then, in Bishop *Andrews* as well as in *Belarmine*, in Bishop *Sanderfon* as well as in *Cajetan*, and in Dr. *Hammond* as well as in *Stapleton*?

3. If you lodge it in General Councils, there we are ready to joyn issue with you. For those which are truly such, we have the greater veneration for. And I will give you one instance in matter of Faith, that shall make it evident beyond contradiction, (for matter of Jurisdiction afterward.) "In the Third general Council held at *Ephesus*, *Decrevit Sancta Synodus non licere cuiquam aliam fidem asserere, vel scribere, vel componere præter eam, quæ à Sanctis Patribus Nicææ Congregatis, in Sancto Spiritu definita est*---&c. The Holy Synod hath decreed, That it shall not be lawful for any one to bring in or alledge, to write or compose any other Faith besides that which is defined by the Holy Fathers assembled at *Nice*, with the (assistance of the) Holy Ghost. This Canon, which the Church of *England* observes inviolable, the Church of *Rome* doth egregiously prevaricate; witness the Faith composed, after the Council of *Trent*, by Pope *Pius* the Fourth, which is solemnly sworn by all the Clergy in the Church of *Rome* at this day. If you say, this was not another Faith, nor any addition to the Ancient Creed, but only an *explication* of it, the very letter of that *Symbol* will evince the contrary; and to use your own expression, that defence dwindles into more Evasion. Let the Reader judge by the matter of Fact and the Observations following.

Concil. 3.  
Generale  
Ephesi. habit.  
Can. 7.  
Justell.  
Codex  
Canon. Eccl.  
Univ. Can.  
177.

*The Confession of Faith, by Pope Pius, according to the Council of Trent set forth ——— 1564.*

"I *A. B.* do stedfastly believe and profess, all and singular the Contents of that Symbol of Faith which the holy *Roman* Church useth; That is to say,

*I believe in one God the Father Almighty, maker of Heaven and Earth, and of all things visible and invisible, and in one Lord Jesus*

*Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, God of God, light of light, very God of very God, begotten not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate, he suffered, and was buried, and rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and ascended into Heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father; and he shall come again with Glory to judge both the quick and the dead: whose Kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and giver of life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son: who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who spake by the Prophets. And I believe one Catholick and Apostolick Church: I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the Resurrection of the dead, and the life of the World to come. Amen.*

[Thus far is the Faith of the Council of Nice, to which the Pope adds these Articles following:]

*I do steadfastly admit and embrace Apostolical and Ecclesiastical Traditions, with the rest of the Observations and Constitutions of the same Church. I admit also of the holy Scripture, according to that sense, which hath been held, and is held by the holy Mother the Church, whose office it is to judge of the true sense and interpretation of the Holy Scriptures: Nor will I ever receive or interpret the same, but according to the unanimous consent of the Fathers. I profess also, that there are seven Sacraments of the new Law, truly and properly so called, instituted by Jesus Christ our Lord, and necessary to the Salvation of Mankind, though all of them be not necessary for every man; That is to say, Baptism, Confirmation, the Eucharist, Penance, Extreme Unction, Orders, and Matrimony: and that they do confer Grace; and amongst these, that Baptism, Confirmation, and Orders, cannot be repeated without Sacrilege. I do also receive and admit all the received and approved Rites of the Catholick Church in the solemn administration of all the aforesaid Sacraments. I do receive and embrace all and*  
-singular

The Council of Nice consisted of 318 Bishops from all parts of the World, East and West, and was held in the year 325. And of Constantine M. the Tenth. The Council of Trent was not held till the year 1545, and ended not till 1563, wherein were in all, with Legates, Cardinals, Abbots and Proctors, but 255, and most of them Italians & the Popes Creatures. *Lut. Bail. Sen. Concil. Tor. 1. p. 600. B. 1. Edit. Paris. 1659.*

singular the things which were defined by the holy Synod of Trent, concerning Original Sin and Justification: I profess likewise, that in the Sacrifice of the Mass there is offer'd unto God a true, proper, and propitiatory Sacrifice for the living and dead; and that in the most holy Sacrament of the Eucharist, there is verily, really and substantially the Body and Blood, together with the Soul and Divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ; and that there is made (therein) a change of the whole substance of the Bread into his body, and of the whole substance of the Wine into his blood; which change the Catholick Church calls Transubstantiation. I do also confess, that Christ whole and entire, and the true Sacrament is received in either kind alone. I do stedfastly hold, that there is a Purgatory, and that the Souls detained therein are relieved by the Suffrages of the Faithful. Likewise also, that the Saints reigning together with Christ, are to be worshipped and prayed unto; and that they do offer up prayers unto God for us. And that their Reliques are to be had in veneration. I do most stedfastly affirm, that the Images of Christ, of the (Blessed) Virgin, the Mother of God, and of other Saints, are to be had and kept, and a due honour and veneration to be given unto them. Also, that the power of Indulgences was left by Christ unto his Church; and I affirm, that the use of them is very salutary (and beneficial) to Christian people: I acknowledge the holy Catholick and Apostolick Roman Church to be the Mother and Mistress of all Churches. And I promise and swear true obedience to the Pope of Rome, successor to St. Peter, Prince of the Apostles, and the Vicar of Christ. I do also undoubtedly receive and profess all things else, which are delivered, defined and declared by the sacred Canons and general Councils, and especially by the most holy Synod of Trent. And I do likewise condemn, reject and anathematize all things that are contrary, and all Heresies whatsoever, which are condemned, rejected and anathematized by the Church. This true Catholick Faith, without which no man can be saved, which at this present I do freely profess and truly hold, by Gods help, I will most constantly to the very last breath of my life, intirely and inviolably hold and confess the

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same,

same, and take care, as much as in me lies, that the same shall be held, taught and preached by all my Subjects, or all those under my care and charge, in respect of my Function. This I A. B. do promise, vow, and swear. So God be my help, and these his holy Gospels.

This is the Creed of Pope *Pius*, according to the Council of *Trent*. Now betwixt these Articles and those of the Church of *England* there is a vast difference, both 1. In the matter; and 2. In the imposition; and 3. In the end of them.

1. For the Matter of these Articles: Those of the Church of *England* are not to be believed as Articles of Faith, no further than they can approve themselves to be contained in the holy Scriptures; for thus we are taught in the Sixth of these Articles.

"Holy Scripture containeth all things necessary to salvation, so that whatsoever is not read therein, nor may be proved thereby\*, is not to be required of any man, that it should be believed as an Article of the Faith, or be thought requisite or necessary to salvation. But amongst the Articles of Faith enjoyned by Pope *Pius*, some are quite beside the Holy Scripture, some against it; some are mere speculations of the Schools, and others but probable, and matters of doubtful disputation. For instance; (1) The multiplication of *Advocates* and Ghostly Patrons: (2) The Sacrifice of the *Mass*: (3) The Adoration of the *Host*: (4) The power of *Indulgences*; as they are maintained and practised in the Church of *Rome*. These are, at least besides the Holy Scripture.

(1) The *Invocation* of Saints, and veneration of Images (as practised generally by the Common people, according to their Books.)

(2) The publick Service of the Church in an *unknown* Tongue. The administration of the Lords Supper, ordinarily to the people, but in *one* kind: And that the Church of *Rome* is the *Mother* and *Mistress* of all other Churches. These are against Scripture.

(3) *Transub-*

\* Licet interdum à fidelibus ut pium & conducibile ad ordinem & decorum admittatur.

In the Margin of that Article.

(3) *Transubstantiation* (whatsoever it signifies more than a *Real presence*, and the benefits which flow from it) with the unaccountable hypotheses which depend upon it : And *Purgatory*, as it is blown up into Climærical flames by the Schoolmen ; with the means and manner of deliverance out of it , are no better than Scholastical speculations. And many of the rest valued but as probabilities, or matters of doubtful disputation.

2. For the *imposition* of these respective Articles the difference is vast. For those of Pope *Pius* we have not only, " I receive, admit and embrace (this Faith;) not only, I do " affirm and acknowledge, constantly hold and most stedfastly " assert it: not only, I do with a stedfast Faith believe and " profess it ; but under the high and solemn obligation, I do " promise, vow, and swear, to hold, teach and preach the same " to the very last breath of my life, and to procure all others under my charge to do the like. But to the Articles of Religion in the Church of *England* subscription is only required, without any obligation to teach, profess or assert them, further than they are contained in the Holy Scripture, or may be proved thereby to be Articles of the Faith ; or admitted for discipline and good order. And it is moreover to be observed, That his Majesty in his Declaration before these Articles printed 1630, though he forbids the offering violence to the liberal and Grammatical sense of these Articles ; yet he seems to allow a modest liberty (without contention) in putting the most favourable construction upon them. The words are these, " Though some differences have been ill " raised ; yet we take comfort in this, that all Clergy-men " within our Realm, have always most willingly subscribed " to the Articles established ; which is an Argument to Us, that " they all agree in the true literal meaning of the said Articles : and that even in those curious points, in which the " present differences lie, Men of all sorts take the Articles " of the Church of *England* to be for them ; which is an " Argument, that none of them intend any desertion of the



"Articles established. Where we see his *Majesty* took notice, that men of all sorts took these Articles to be for them; and he declares, that he took comfort therein. Which argues, that the imposition was not strict and rigid as to the sense and meaning of the Articles. And though in the *Synod 1640. Can. 6.* an Oath was enjoined; yet it was with as much modesty and tenderness, as any sober and peaceable Subject can desire: for thus it runs, *I A. B. do swear, that I do approve the Doctrine and Discipline, or Government in the Church of Eng'land, as containing all things necessary to salvation.* Where two things are very observable, (1) The assertion is only this, That I do approve the Doctrine, &c. the (2) Only as containing all things necessary to salvation; for which we are referred to the authority of the Holy Scripture by the Sixth Article, as was observed before.

3. As to the *end* of these respective Articles; Those of Pope *Pius* are declared to be necessary to salvation, not only *Necessitate precepti, sed Medii*; necessary as well upon the account of a Means as of a Precept: for the Pope declares, *Hanc (esse) veram Catholicam fidem, Extra quam nemo salvus esse potest.* "That this is the true Catholick Faith, without "which no man can be saved. But the Articles of the Church of *England* generally are intended for a *decorum* and *order* (matters of necessary Faith being herein restrained to the Holy Scriptures) to keep out disputes and vain jangling, and to preserve peace and concord in her Communion. Thus much is intimated in the very Title prefix'd to those Articles; but much more clearly in his Majesties Declaration before mentioned, where he saith, "We hold it most agreeable to our "Kingly Office and our own Religious Zeal; to conserve and "maintain the Church committed to our charge in the unity "of the true Religion, and in the bond of peace, and not "to suffer unnecessary Disputations, Alterations, or Questions "to be raised, which may nourish Faction both in the Church "and Commonwealth. We have therefore thought fit to "make this Declaration, That the Articles, &c. do contain  
"the



"the true Doctrine of the Church of *England* agreeable to  
 "Gods word; which we do therefore ratifie and confirm, &c.  
 But this is more clear in a Book set forth 1571. call'd, *Liber*  
*quorundam Canonum Disciplina Ecclesie Anglicanæ SS. de Concio-*  
*natoribus*. Where it is ordered thus: *Imprimis vero vide-*  
*bunt, &c.* "Let the Preachers take care, that they teach no-  
 "thing in their Sermons, which they would have the People  
 "hold and believe as a matter of Religion; but what is con-  
 "sonant to the Doctrine of the Old or New Testament, and  
 "what the Catholick Fathers and Ancient Bishops have ga-  
 "thered out of the same. And because those Articles of  
 "Christian Religion, which were agreed upon by the Bi-  
 "shops, &c. are without doubt collected out of the Sacred  
 "Books of the Old and New Testament, and do in all things  
 "agree with the heavenly Doctrine contained therein: Also,  
 "because the Book of Common Prayers, and the Book of the  
 "Inauguration of Archbishops, Bishops, Priests and Deacons,  
 "do contain nothing that is contrary to that Doctrine; who-  
 "soever shall be sent out to teach the People, shall confirm  
 "the authority and belief of those Articles, as well by  
 "their subscription as in their Sermons. *Qui secus fecerit &*  
*contrariâ doctrinâ Populum turbaverit, excommunicabitur;*  
 "Whosoever shall do otherwise, and disturb the People with  
 "any contrary Doctrine shall be excommunicated. Here indeed  
 the Clergy are implicitly enjoined to preach up the belief  
 and authority of these Articles: But withal, (1) The belief and  
 authority of them is required, not as grounded upon the  
*Declaration* and *Sanction* of the Ecclesiastical Governours  
 (though a hearty submission and obedience is due thereto in  
 matters of Religion, Discipline, and Order, upon the account  
 of a Divine precept,) but upon their *Congruity* with the  
*Holy Scriptures*, according to the sense of the 'Ancient Fa-  
 thers. (2) That such as transgress these Articles are punish'd  
 (for want of good manners) as *disturbers* of the publick  
 Peace.

Wherefore.

Wherefore, though the Author of the *Guide in Controversies* \*, hath made it his business to strain every Sentence, Phrase, and word in the Canons as well as the Articles of the Church of *England*, to make those Articles seem to run parallel in the Charge of a *new* Imposition of Faith, with those in the Creed of Pope *Pius* the Fourth aforementioned; yet, by what hath been observed, it is evident, that the Articles of the Church of *England* were not intended (as those of that Pope clearly were) for an *Addition* to the Faith declared by the Fathers at *Nice*, which (with all Christian Churches) we profess as *Catholics*; but for *information* to direct our publick discourses generally as occasion serves, in matters of Religion, as we are *united* in the *Communion* of the *particular* Church of *England*, after a deliberate and sober *Reformation*; which to attempt and perform, as far as in them lies, no doubt all Bishops are as well obliged in duty by Christ's Command, [*Apos. 2 & 3 Cap.*] as prescribed to do it orderly, by the 34. of the Apostles Canons †.

† Episcopos uniuscujusque

gentis nosse oportet eum, qui in eis est primus, & existimare eum ut caput: & nihil facere magni momenti, præter illius sententiam: illa autem sola facere unumquemque quæ ad suam parocchiam pertinent, & pagos qui ei subiungunt.

To leave this long, though not unnecessary digression; This *Infallibility* (in the latitude the *Roman* party pleads for) is so very improbable, that Mr. *Cressley* (in his *Neophytism*) was not able to swallow it till he had shrunk it up into an *Indefectibility*; wherein we can heartily close with him. And for all that great privilege, which make so much noise in the world, I do very well observe, that in many cases they are glad to rest satisfied with a *probable Conscience*. And in spite of that *Infallibility*, They must stand to the courtesie or hazard of a *probable Opinion*, to secure themselves (according to their practice) from the peril of Idolatry. And this is acknowledged by the Jesuite *Ant. Terill*, our Countryman, in his Treatise *de Conscientia Probabili*: His words are these;

Edit. Leodii, 1668. p. 387, &c.

“ *Quid magis ad mores, &c.* What does more concern man-  
ners

"ners and the strictness of the Law of Nature, than that the  
 "worship due to God be not bestowed upon a Creature ;  
 "and yet it is lawful many times, out of a probable Opinion  
 "only, to bestow Divine worship upon the Eucharist, and  
 "to adore God when he is but probably latent there. For  
 "there is no true certainty ; but only a Probability, that this  
 "numerical Host is rightly consecrated. First, It is not  
 "certain that he who did consecrate was a Priest, both be-  
 "cause it is not certain that he was baptized, as also, because  
 "it is not certain that he was (lawfully or) validly Ordained  
 "by a true Bishop, having an intention requisite to that ef-  
 "fect, &c. Secondly, It is not certain that he did pronounce  
 "the words of Consecration. If he did duly pronounce  
 "them, yet Thirdly, perhaps he had not a due intention.  
 "If all these things were (observed) as they should be, It is  
 "not certain, in the Fourth place, that a due matter was made  
 "use of ; for the Bread might not be made of Wheat. Fifth-  
 "ly, Although all these things proceeded well and rightly ;  
 "yet it is not indubitable, that the Officer to whom the  
 "custody of the venerable Sacrament belongs, did not ex-  
 "pose an Host that was not consecrated, instead of one that  
 "was (truly consecrated) to be adored. All these are ge-  
 "neral, to which we may add the malice of mans heart,  
 "which is too vigorous in some persons. Upon these heads  
 "(saith he) we have known many Cheats too frequently  
 "practised in this matter ; and they know it much better, who  
 "are employed as Judges upon the Tribunal of the Sacred  
 "Inquisition. *Thus far Father Terill.*

Now, if they of the Church of *Rome* have no certainty  
 in their Sacraments, no certainty in their Sacrifice of the Al-  
 tar, no certainty in their Priesthood, no certainty, but they  
 may commit Idolatry every day ; if they cannot be certain,  
 but the malice of their Priests may frustrate all the sacred Or-  
 dinances of God to them, and make them absolutely null,  
 though they be never so worthily disposed to receive the bene-  
 fit of them : (And this is the Doctrine and Belief commonly  
 main-

maintained in the Church of *Rome*.) They should rather blush at such an Infallibility, than boast of any great advantage to be reaped from it. For grant further, that that Infallibility were such as they would have it, yet they can have no *security* in it for salvation. 'Tis such as a man may carry into *Hell* with him (if it proves not a means to lead him thither,) where (for ought I know) the Devils have it as much as he. And *Gregory* the Seventh was of the same mind; *Nam, "ut Jacobus frater Domini testatur, fides sine operibus mortua est, qualem & Dæmones habere fatetur; Non Ergo minus est resistendum pertinacibus authenticarum institutionum impugnatoribus quam Sacrae fidei violatoribus, cum & Dæmonibus assimilentur quicunque institutionem SS. Patrum in fide tantum, & non etiam in conversatione pro viribus asseratur?* For as *James*, the Brother of our Lord, doth testify, *Faith without Works is dead*, which kind of Faith he doth acknowledge to be in the Devils. We ought therefore no less to resist such as are obstinate impugnors of Authentic Institutions (*viz.* of Piety) than such as do violate the Sacred Faith, seeing they that do earnestly follow the instruction of the Holy Fathers in (matter of) Faith only, and not in (a holy) conversation are like unto the Devils. For this *Infallibility* is restrained to matters of Faith, and that Faith is but *historical* (as they call it) and not sufficient to salvation. "To the Essence of a Church, right Doctrines in Practicals are as necessary as in Speculatives, if mortal Sin excludes from salvation, as well as "an erroneous Faith †; as the Author of *the Guide in Controversies* does acknowledge. And this is the Doctrine of the Council of *Trent*, Sess. 6. de Justificatione: "*Si quis dixerit, solâ fide justificari, ita ut intelligat nihil aliud requiri quod ad Justificationis gratiam consequendam cooperetur, & nulla ex parte necesse esse eum suæ voluntatis motu preparari atque disponi, Anathema sit*, Can.9. If any man shall say, that "Faith a'one does Justify, so that nothing else is required "to cooperate towards the attainment of the Grace of Justification,

† R.H. Disc.  
of the Necessity of  
Church  
Guides.  
p.82.

"fication, and that it is in no wise necessary that he should  
 "be prepared and disposed (to it) by any motion of his  
 "own will, let him be accursed. *Et Can. 19. Si quis dixerit,*  
 "*nihil præceptum esse in Evangelio præter fidem, cætera esse*  
 "*indifferentia, neque præcepta neque prohibita, sed libera;*  
 "*aut Decem Præcepta nihil pertinere ad Christianos, Ana-*  
 "*thema sit.* If any man shall say, there is nothing command-  
 "ed in the Gospel, but Faith; that all other matters are  
 "indifferent, neither commanded nor forbidden, but left  
 "free: or that the Ten Commandments do not concern  
 "Christians; let him be accursed. *Et Can. 21. Si quis*  
 "*dixerit Christum Jesum à Deo hominibus datum fuisse, ut*  
 "*Redemptorem, cui fidant, non etiam ut Legislatorem, cui*  
 "*obediant; Anathema sit:* that is, If any man shall say, that  
 "Christ Jesus was given unto man of God, as a Redeemer  
 "in whom they should trust, and not also as a Lawgiver,  
 "whom they should obey; let him be accursed. (Which  
 Canons we can readily subscribe to:) From which it ap-  
 pears beyond exception, that the Infallibility pretended by  
 the Church of *Rome* is not to be relied on as sufficient for  
 salvation. "The Creeds chiefly comprehending Specula-  
 "tives, there must be a great body of Articles also of ne-  
 "cessary Faith relating to Practicals; as *R. H.* maintains C. 1. §. 3.  
 in his Discourse of the *Necessity of Church Guides.* But p. 4.  
 doth this Infallibility extend to all matters of Practical  
 belief, as well as Speculative? Yes, saith *R. H.* *Christ hath*  
*left an Infallible Guide for Manners as well as Faith* †; and a † Id p. 176  
 little after, *God hath provided by the same Church Autho-*  
*rity to preserve his Church in truth, and to restrain it from*  
*sin; giving an equal Commission to teach the ignorant, and*  
*to correct the vicious. And that since their Doctrine directs*  
*our Manners, as well as Faith; their Infallibility is as ne-*  
*cessary for things of Practice, as of Speculation.* But if there  
 be such an Infallibility in the Guides of the Church, not  
 only in reference to points of Faith, but to Doctrines of  
 Practice also, *What meaneth then this bleating of the Sheep* 1 Sam. 15.  
14.  
C
in



*in mine ears, and this lowing of the Oxen, which I hear?*

Of the degeneracy of the Church in his time *V. Bede* writes thus: "*Videt quisque non sine lachrymis, &c.* Every one

Apud  
Meisner de  
Ecclesia,  
p. 681,  
682, 684.

"sees not without tears, into what a weak and infirm condition the state of the Church does daily dwindle. And *St. Bernard*, in his time; "*Hodie serpit putida tabes, &c.*

"Now-a-days an infectious and spreading Consumption hath seized the body of the Church, which the further

"it is dilated the more desperate it grows; and it is so much the more dangerous, by how much the more in-

"ward. And after him the Cardinal, *Petrus de Aliaco*, in a publick Sermon at the Council of *Constans*. *Manifestum*

"esse, saith he, &c. 'Tis apparent, that the Church hath

"of a long time been in several respects deformed, and

"not only hath (in time past) but doth now extremely

"want a reformation as well in Faith as Manners. The like complaints are made in these our days; not against the corrupt Manners of wicked men only, but against the

*New Extravagant* and *pernicious* Doctrines, which do lead to, and encourage such ill Manners: witness what was lately written by *Macarius Havermans* Canon of the Church of *St. Michael, Ordinis premonstratensis*, in his

† Printed  
at Antwerp  
An. 1674.

*Tyrociniū Christianæ Moralis Theologiæ* †. Where, in his Epistle *Dedictory* to the *Abbot*, writing of the (unhappily) *fertile* Age into which we are fallen; he saith thus,

"*Quot Theologias Morales non edidit, &c.* How many Systems of Moral Divinity hath this Age brought forth,

"which are as so many whimsical fictions and opinions of

"Divines, grounded upon philosophical Arguments, swelling with curious and exquisite probabilities, and big

"with humane inventions. And in his Preface to the Reader he complains of the Arrogance of these new Doctors,

in preferring their own Sentiments before the Doctrine of the Ancient Fathers, Councils, and Holy Scriptures:

"*Hinc vix ullum*, saith he, &c. Whence it comes to pass, that in their Writings you shall scarce find any place of

Sacred



" Sacred Scripture, or the Ancient Councils, or Holy  
 " Fathers alledged; but they weigh every thing in the  
 " ballance of their own understanding: And thus for Chri-  
 " stian Divinity ( whose conclusions concerning God and  
 " his Attributes, &c. ought to be deduced from the un-  
 " erring and uncontrollable Doctrine of Gods word, and  
 " from the most secure Decrees of the Holy Fathers ) they  
 " set up a Natural Theology or Philosophy grounded up-  
 " on the Principles of *Aristotle* and his Followers, whose  
 " Authority they alledge more frequently than that of  
 " *St. Ambrose*, *Jerome*, *Austin*, or any other Holy Fa-  
 " ther; not to say they do more value them: nay, so de-  
 " voted are they to their own Inventions, that a plausible  
 " Reason of their own shall be prefer'd before the gravest  
 " Sentiments and Maxims of the Holy Fathers.

Hereupon *Caramuel* breaks out into that ingenuous ac-  
 knowledgegment, " I spend not much time, or rather lose  
 " it not, in turning over the Writings of the Ancients.  
*And gives us his reason elsewhere*, Because, *saieth he*, as to  
 " Manners the Opinions of the Moderns are to be pre-  
 " ferr'd to those of the Ancients. For as a late Writer  
 " hath it [ *in nova libertatis explicatione* ] the Modern  
 " Schoolmen had a greater insight into things, than the for-  
 " mer. And have also thought fit to reject whatsoever  
 " they approved or looked upon as not improbable: And  
 " (*saieth he*) now, who sees not at the first glance, that  
 " those exorbitant Tenents are so abhorring from the De-  
 " crees of Antiquity, that they need no confutation; but  
 " that barely to mention them is to confute them? So that,  
 " to speak with *St. Austin*, I think them fitter to be be-  
 " wailed by Believers, than disputed against by me. Their  
 " clamours will sooner be drowned by Prayers and  
 " Tears, than by the noise of Arguments: And with-  
 " out doubt we shall do more advantage for such per-  
 " sons, if with our Prayers we endeavour their refor-  
 " mation, lest they perish with their great Wits, or

"ruine others with their damnable presumption. More-  
 "over, this slighting of the Holy Fathers is like to be  
 "very pernicious to the Church; for if their Authority  
 "be so disesteemed and undervalued in matter of Man-  
 "ners, and that by *Roman Catholick* Writers, who can  
 "blame the Hereticks for not valuing their Authority in  
 "matters of Faith? for why should they be valued in  
 "matters of Faith, more than in matters of Manners? Are  
 "not Manners to be directed by the Authority of Divine  
 "Tradition, as well as Faith? Are not the Faithful as  
 "well Trustees of the Tradition of Manners, as of Faith?  
 And a little after he exhorts his Reader thus: *Pro para-*  
 "*doxo ergo reputamus, &c.* Wherefore let us account that  
 "of a late Writer for a mere paradox (*viz.*) [*Tota*  
 "*Theologia Moralis est nova*] All Moral Divinity is whol-  
 "ly New. For if it be *New*, then it was not delivered  
 "by Christ, nor by his Apostles, nor by the Holy Fa-  
 "thers: And consequently, neither Christian, nor Apo-  
 "stolical, nor Orthodoxal; and that which is more, nei-  
 "ther is it true, nor genuine; but spurious and adul-  
 "terate, and for that reason not to be applauded, but  
 "condemned, not to be embraced, but banished, not  
 "to be alledged, but exploded. *Tantum enim à veteri*  
 "*simplicitate, &c.* (*as it follows a little after*) For we  
 "have so far started from the Primitive simplicity and  
 "Obedience, that there is scarce any Law but is rendred  
 "useless by the glosses of the Schoolmen, as it may ap-  
 "pear, if we please to trace them in some particular  
 "Laws: Of what great efficacy (I pray) will that Ec-  
 "clesiastical Law be, concerning Anniversary Confession  
 "and Communion, if it may be satisfied by a bare ex-  
 "ternal, though sacrilegious Communion and Confes-  
 "sion? Nevertheless, that a man may satisfy that Precept  
 "by such a sacrilegious Communion, many Schoolmen,  
 "*de facto*, do still teach. Again, of what force is that  
 "Law about hearing the Sacred Offices on the Lords  
 "day,

"day, and other Holy-days, if that Command may be satisfied only by an external presence of the body; although during the whole time of the Sacrifice a man suffers his mind voluntarily to wander and be distracted, and taken up with impure and filthy Cogitations? And yet many Schoolmen teach this Doctrine. The Law for the observation of Fasting, how unprofitable it is rendred, is very notably set forth by *Marchantius* in the Complaint of (his personated) St. *Jejunium* \*. *Quærimonia S. Jejunii*, by *Marchantius*. The like may be shewed in other Instances. Thus far *Havermans*. By all which we see the fruits of this great priviledge of Infallibility in the Church of Rome; viz. by their own Confession they have entertain'd a new Moral † (and not the Primitive) for matters of Practice; and in our observation, they have done the like in matters of Faith and Speculation. And when we find so great a variation, we must needs conclude, That either the Ancient Church was not *then*; or else, That the present Church (which differs so much from it) is not *now* Infal-  
 † See *Montaltius's* Provincial Letters, with *Wendrochius's* Notes upon them.  
*Latine Col- lon. 1678.*

And now the Question may be put, Which particular Church is in the more *safe* condition? In the Church of England we have *The Faith of our Lord Jesus Christ*, as St. *James* call's it, (*James* 2. 1.) we have St. *Peters* *ἀγάπη καὶ ἐλπίς* (1 *Peter* 3. 15.) his *Rationale* of the Christian hope. We have St. *Paul's* *Depositum*, 1 *Tim.* 6. 20. *and form of sound words*, 2 *Tim.* 1. 13. And it is undoubtedly St. *Jude's* Faith we contend for, which, as *Beza* very well notes upon the place, was *once*, (and at *once*) so delivered to the Saints, that it ought never to be *changed*. That Faith which the Fathers of the Council

Quid est Depositum? id est, quod tibi creditum est, non quod à te inventum.

cepisti, non quod excogitasti. Rem non ingenii, sed doctrinæ. Non usurpationis privatæ, sed publicæ traditionis. Rem ad te perductam, non à te prolatam, in qua non Author debes esse, sed Custos; non institutor, sed sectator: non ducens, sed sequens. *Vincent. Lirinensis.*

of *Nice* professed we do very heartily embrace ; we keep this Faith *whole* and *undefiled*. But from receiving any other, we are deterred by the Sentence of the Synod of *Ephesus* forementioned ; “ *Qui aliam fidem audent com-  
ponere, &c.* Whosoever shall dare to compose, alledge  
“ or introduce any other Faith, if he be a Bishop or Cler-  
“ gy-man, he shall be degraded ; if a Lay-man, excommu-  
“ cated. If the Faith thus delivered were sufficient for  
their salvation ( *in genere fidei* ) why not for ours ? And  
herein, without all doubt, we are no less *Infalible* than  
the Church of *Rome*. And to the Ancient Fathers in the  
† *Lud. Bail.* most Sacred Councils, this was their † *Shield* against all  
*Sum. Con-* Heresies, *Quo solo, &c.* Through whose attractive power  
*cil. Tom. 1.* alone they have, in times past, drawn unbelievers to  
in decreto the Faith, resisted and rooted out Hereticks, and confirmed  
de Symbolo the Faithful ; as the Fathers of the Council of *Trent* do ac-  
*lo. Sess. 3.* knowledge. If there be any other points of Faith need-  
*m. p. 4. 522.* ful to salvation, our ignorance thereof (after a long and  
diligent search) is both *involuntary* and *invincible*, and that  
will totally excuse us.

For that *superfatation* of Articles by Pope *Pius* the  
Fourth, we were never Baptized into them, nor can we  
answer for them. The truth is, the Faith of the Church  
of *England* the *Romanists* can never justly reprehend, being  
more *pure*, more *Primitive*, and more *Catholick* than their  
own, and was professed intirely by all Christian Churches  
before some Articles of the present Church of *Rome* were  
ever known to have had a being. And for part of this we  
have a pregnant acknowledgment in the Council of *Trent*,  
where they set down this *Symbolum fidei totidem verbis*,  
† *Lud. Bail.* *quibus in omnibus Ecclesiis legitur* ; In the same words in  
*ubi supra.* which it is read in all Churches : And this they set down  
as that principle, wherein all that do profess the Faith of  
*Christ* do necessarily agree ; (and) as that firm and only founda-  
tion, against which the gates of *Hell* shall never be able to  
prevail.

This

This Faith (I say) we do keep whole and undefiled; but, it seems, it was a foundation too narrow to bear up the *Popish* superstructures of *Hay* and *Stubble*: but yet, being the *only* foundation (as they confess,) and so *firm*, that the gates of Hell shall never *prevail* against it; we do stedfastly *rest* upon it, *building our selves* thereon, as St. Epist. Jude v. 20, 21. *Jude* directs us, in *expectation of the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to Eternal life*. Towards the accomplishment whereof our Charity is so much more *Catholick* than theirs, that (with some craft and sophistry, though with little reason) they take an Argument from thence to delude the weak, and make them *Profelytes* to their party.

For our *Agenda*, or matters of Practice, we have a Liturgy that is full, solemn and intelligible, we have all *Sacraments* and *Sacramentals* that are generally *necessary*, or of any *efficacy* to salvation. And (besides all *publick* Offices) for *private* devotion and use, we have Institutions, and forms of *Christian piety*, no part of the Christian Church better. Our *Priesthood* and *Government* you cannot, with any truth or reason, deny to be *Apostolical*; and if our *Discipline* be in some instances collapsed from the severity which it obtained in the practice of the *Antients*, that of the *Church of Rome* is so likewise. And if we reflect upon the many *disadvantages* and *perils*, which are in *Their* Communion, they will warrant the security in ours to be far the greater. Amongst the *disadvantages* on that side, I reckon their *half* Sacraments against the express letter of our Saviours Institution\*; \* Mat. 26. and their Service in an *unknown* Tongue, contrary to the express discourse of the Apostle†. Amongst the *perils*, I must account (1) That of *Idolatry*, in the *adoration* of the *Hof.* † 1 Cor. 11. 23, &c. † 1 Cor. 14. (2) The *veneration of Images*: (3) And the *invocation of Saints*. Secondly, Such as arise from the *abuses* in the matter of *Confession* and *Penances*, of *Indulgence* and *Dispensation*, with many *delusions* under pretence of



of Revelations. Thirdly, Such as arise from several of their *Doctrines*, viz. That the Sacrament does conferr Grace [*ex opere operato*] from the Act performed, without any worthy or *moral* disposition in the Receiver. That *Attrition*, for fear of Hell, is sufficient, without *Charity*, to obtain Grace and pardon in the Sacrament of Penance. That in a case of Conscience, I may follow a *probable* opinion, which is more *benign* and *gentle*, and reject that which is more *safe*, if it be more *severe* and *rigid*. That a man is not obliged to decline and avoid, *Proximam occasionem peccandi*, the immediate danger of sinning, though he has had sad experience of his own frailty and recidivation: That the precept of Repentance does not bind *presently*, but only in the time of *sickness*, or at the *point* of death. These Doctrines are taught and practised, without any the least check of his *Infallible Holiness*.

Nor is the danger small, which ariseth from the persuasion of their *Infallibility*. For from thence proceeds a belief, that whatsoever they take upon them to *define* is as true as Gospel: And what sad work this hath made in the Church of God we may observe from that single instance about the *Sacrament*. In a Council at *Rome*, under *Nicholas*, the Second, *Berengarius* was enjoyned a form of *Recantation*, wherein he professed and swore, *That the Bread and Wine, which are set upon the Altar, after Consecration, are not only a Sacrament, but also the true Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ*. And (that the said Body) is not in *Sacrament* only, but in *truth* (*N.B.*) *Sensualiter manibus Sacerdotum tractari, frangi & fidelium dentibus atteri*, i.e. *sensually handled by the Priest, broken and torn by the teeth of the Faithful*. Expressions so gross to unfold an inexplicable mystery, that the Author of the *Gloss* upon *Gratian* gives his Reader this sober warning of them, '*Hæc verba, nisi sane intelligas, in maiorem incides Hæresin, quam ipse Berengarius habuit: i. e.* Unless you  
'under-

An. Dom.  
1059.

De consecr. dist. 2.  
c. 42. ego  
Bereng.



“understand these words in a sound sense, you will fall into  
 “ a greater *Heretic* than *Berengarius* was guilty of.  
 And upon the account of this pretended *Infallibility*, I  
 might add some Reflections upon those horrid *Murders*,  
*Treasons*, and *Rebellions*, which have been encouraged  
 and carried on out of a belief of the Popes *Supremacy*  
 and Power over Princes, at least *in ordine ad Spiritualia*,  
 in order to Church-matters; which must needs make a  
 great flaw in their Allegiance. What think you of the  
 Popes *Nuncio* at the head of the *Irish* Army.

Sir, if you will give your self the freedom impartially  
 to consider the Answers that are made by the *Romish*  
 Writers, to excuse what is charged upon them for these,  
 and some other loose Doctrines and practices, you will  
 find it no Fable, That their *defences* dwindle into mere  
 evasions. I shall now conclude your trouble and my  
 own with a few Animadversions upon the whole mat-  
 ter.

First, That (how hot soever your Zeal may grow for  
 the Church of *Rome*) you might have done much better  
 service for the Church *Catholick*, if you had continued in  
 the Communion of that part of it which is established in  
 this Kingdom.

Secondly, To use the word of the Ingenious Author of  
 [*The Notion of Schism*], that for any to desert the Church  
 of *England* to communicate with that of *Rome*, is such a  
 frantick humor, as for a man to quit the *neatest* appart-  
 ment and exchange for the most *suttish* Rooms in the same  
 House.

Thirdly, That you have given a scandal to your Bre-  
 thren of the Church of *England*, contrary to that Caveat  
 and Admonition of the Apostle, 1 *Cor.* 10. 32. And he  
 that gives offence to his Brother, sins against God, *whose*  
*bandy-work he destroys*, *Rom.* 14. 20. He sins also against  
 Christ, in destroying him for whom *Christ* died, *Rom.* 14. 15.

D

Fourthly,

*Estius ad  
 locum.*

Fourthly and Lastly, That by withdrawing your self from that subjection and obedience, which by the Laws of the Catholick Church you owe to your own Bishop, Primate, or Metropolitan, you run desperately into *Schisme*, while you are superstitiously solicitous to avoid it. For "*Schisma est contumacia adversus Episcopum rebellio, quâ quis ejus communionem deserit, &c.*" *Schisme* is a plain "Rebellion against the Bishop, whereby a man forsakes "his Communion and endures no fellowship with him in "Divine matters; as *Christian Lupus* hath it upon *Tertullian*†. And *St. Cyprian* in an Epistle *ad Rogatianum Novensem*, who had been affronted by his *Deacon*, saith thus: "*Hec sunt initia Hæreticorum, &c.*" By these means Heretics are hatched, and the endeavours of ill-minded "Schismatics promoted; who, that they may gratifie "their humorsome whimsies, do superciliously contemn "him that is set over them: thus men depart from the "Church, and set up a prophane Altar (that is a *Conventicle*) without (the Communion of it): Thus they make "war upon the Peace left by Christ, and rebel against "Unity and the Ordinance of God. And *Epist. 69. ad Florentium Pupianum*, writing in reference to himself, he saith thus: "*Inde Schismata & Hæreses abortiæ sunt & oriuntur, &c.*" Hence Heresies and Schismes have their rise; "when as the Bishop, who is but one, and presides over the "Church, is most presumptuously contemned; and the man "dignified with a vocation from God, is thought unworthy thereof by men. That *St. Cyprian* writes thus, not in reference to the Bishop of *Rome*, but to *himself* and other Bishops of *particular Churches*, is evinced by *Goulartius* in his Annotations, *ad Epist. 55. n. 27.* against *Pamelius*.

†Schol. ad  
cap 6. de  
præscript.  
Epist. 65.

With great reason therefore did the Council of *Nice* decree, *Can. 6.* "*Antiqui mores serventur, &c.*" Let the "Ancient customs and privileges be preserved; That the "Bishop of *Alexandria* may have the Jurisdiction and "power of them who are in *Egypt*, *Lybia* and *Pentapolis*; for so the Bishop of *Rome* hath customarily had " (over his Province.) Likewise also in *Antiochia* and "other Provinces, let their Privileges be preserved (in- "violable) to their (respective) Churches. The *Epitome* "of which *Canon* runs thus: *Super Egyptum, Lybiam, &* " *Pentapolim, Alexandrinus Episcopus potestatem habeat,* " *& Romanus super Roma subditos. Item Antiochenus alii-* " *que super suos: i.e.* Let the Bishop of *Alexandria* have "Authority over *Egypt*, *Lybia*, and *Pentapolis*, and the "Bishop of *Rome* over the Subjects of *Rome*. In like "manner the Bishop of *Antioch*, and (all) other Bishops "over their Subjects (in their respective Provinces.) And *Alex. Aristenus* hath this *Gloss* upon it, *Unumquemque Pa-* " *triarcharum, &c.* Every Patriarch ought to be content "with his own privileges, and not to usurp upon any "other Province which was not heretofore, and from the "beginning; under his power and Jurisdiction; for this "is the pride of an (unjust) secular Dominion. And in the *Second General Council* held at *Constantinople*, *Can. 2.* it is decreed thus: "The Bishop shall not pass the bounds "of their own Diocesses, nor confound (the privileges of) "the Churches, but govern themselves according to the "Canons: And if we observe the Canon prescribed "concerning Diocesses, it is clear that each Province shall "be governed by the particular Synod of the same Pro- "vince, as it is decreed by the Council of *Nice*. And *Leo the Great* had so great a veneration and zeal for the Authority and honour of that Synod; that in an Epistle to *Anatolius* Bishop of *Constantinople*, blaming him highly amongst other miscarriages, for invading the privileges

V. Pandeſt.  
à Guſt. Be-  
verege E-  
dit. in 1.  
Concil.  
Nice. C. 6.

Ibid.

of the Churches of *Alexandria* and *Antioch*, he writes thus :  
 " I grieve not a little, that you are fallen into so great an  
 " Error as to attempt the violation of the most sacred  
 " Constitutions of the Canons of *Nice*. viz. In attempt-  
 " ing to invade, after *Alexandria* and *Antioch*, the dig-  
 " nities and priviledges of all other *Metropolitans*: And  
 blaming him for endeavouring to *wheadle* the most Chri-  
 stian *Emperour*, and the holy *Synod* ( called by his Autho-  
 rity, for the extinguishing of Heresie and the Confirmation  
 of the Catholick Faith ) to serve his ambitious designs,  
 he tells him, " That the Synod of *Nice*, consisting of  
 " three hundred and eighteen Bishops, was so *Sacred*, and  
 " consecrated \* with so great a priviledge from God, that  
 " whatsoever was done by any of their Councils, be they  
 " never so numerous, who assembled in them, it should  
 " be utterly void and of no Authority, if it were dis-  
 " fering from what was Ordained by those Holy Fathers †.  
 And in his Epistle to *Martianus* the Emperour, blaming  
 the Ambition of *Anatolius*, as aforesaid, he condemns  
 him for this reason; " *Privilegia enim Ecclesiarum, &c.*  
 " For the priviledges of the Churches being established  
 " by the Canons of the Holy Fathers, and fixed by the  
 " Decrees of the venerable Synod of *Nice*, are not to be  
 " changed or shaken by any wicked attempts of Novelty;  
 " but to be preserved inviolable: In which business, with  
 " Christs help, it is necessary that I exert my utmost  
 " endeavours as one instructed with a Dispensation. And  
 " it would become my guilt, if the Sacred Constitutions  
 " of the Fathers established by the Holy Ghost in the  
 " Synod of *Nice*, for the Government of the whole Church  
 " of God, should through my neglect or connivence|| ( which  
 " God forbid ) be violated or infringed, and the gratifying  
 " of one Brothers humor should be of more concern to

\* Tanto  
divinitus  
privilegio  
Consecra-  
ta.

*Leo Mag.*  
Epist. 53.  
inter ope-  
ra Paris,  
1623.

† Quicquid  
ab illorum  
fuerit Con-  
stitutione  
diversum.

Let the  
Pope of  
*Rome* con-  
sider well  
these  
weighty  
Letters of  
his great  
Predecess-  
ors.

\* *Lud. Bail.*  
reads it,  
Te ( quod  
absit ) con-  
niventis :

and so applies it to the Emperour. In Sum. Concil. Tom. 1. m. p. 141. B. 2.

"me than the common benefit of the whole Church of God. And in an Epistle to *Juvenalis* Bishop of *Jerusalem*, and the rest of the Bishops assembled in the holy Synod of *Chalcedon*, he writes thus concerning the keeping of the Ordinances of the holy Fathers, which are fixed by inviolable Decrees in the Synod of *Nice*. "I advise, That the rights of the Church may remain as they were ordained by those three hundred and eighteen Fathers, divinely inspired. Let not wicked Ambition covet anothers Right, nor let any man seek to augment himself by the lessening of another. For by what assertions soever a vain elation may arm it self, and think to strengthen its inordinate desires by the name of *Councils*, whatsoever shall be disagreeable to the Canons of the foresaid Fathers shall be void and of no validity. Thus *Leo the Great*. And if there were any such thing as Infallibility or Authority, either in this Pope *Leo* the Great, or in that first General, and most sacred Council of *Nice*, that Canon of theirs concerning the Jurisdiction and Priviledges of the Churches, is of full force, and ought to be observed inviolably at this day.

Now to apply this to our own case. It is evident out of several Records, \* That the *Britannick* Church was ever *αὐτοκράτωρ*, and Independent, subject to no foreign Bishop, but under her own *Metropolitan*, having her Primacy and Headship, with all priviledges Ecclesiastical, within her self for six hundred years after Christ, till *Austin* the Monk, transgressing that Canon of *Nice*, did by force of Arms subdue and captivate her to the See of *Rome*. The Popes Usurpation began here in blood, with the slaughter of Twelve hundred innocent and holy Monks, at *Bangor*; and all attempts to reinforce that Usurpation, are carried on by methods of the like nature, *i. e.* practices of fraud and violence. Nevertheless, as the Learned *Beverege* hath observed, the unjust violation of that Canon, cannot prejudice

\* See *Bedes* Histor. and the berty of the *Britannick* Ch. by Dr. *Baſſer*. Lond. printed for *John Miſſon*. 1661.

*M. Beverege* Anno. ad Can. 6. Concl. *Nice*. p. 58, 59.



dice the high and perpetual Authority of it, Wherefore though the Bishop of *Rome*, ever since he sent the afore-said *Austin* hither, hath exercised the chief Authority in this Nation; yet at last having shaken off his Tyrannical yolk, our Church (through Gods blessing) doth most deservedly enjoy her Ancient priviledges, by that most worthy Ordinance and Canon, prescribed by the Universal Church, in this matter.

It is manifest then, that the Bishop of *Rome* can afford you no good *Sanctuary* against the Authority of that Bishop and Metropolitan, whose Communion you have forsaken. What therefore St. *Hierome* saith against *John* of *Jerusalem*, I may fitly apply to the Pope of *Rome*, *Tu qui regulas quaris Ecclesiasticas, & Nicæni Concilii Canonibus uteris, & alienos Clericos & cum suis Episcopis commorantes tibi niteris usurpare; Responde mihi, Ad Alexandrinum Episcopum Palestinamquid pertinet.* Thou who seekest for Ecclesiastical Canons, and usest the Constitutions of the Council of *Nice*, and notwithstanding pretendest to usurp the Government over the Clergy of other Bishops, tell me, what hath the Bishop of *Rome* to do with Great *Britain*? Sir, from what hath been suggested it is evident, that the Bishop and Church of *Rome* have shamefully prevaricated both the Doctrine and Government of the Catholick Church, as it was declared and fix'd by the most Ancient and sacred General Councils; The Doctrine, as well in matters of Faith as Manners; And the Government by usurping the Jurisdiction and priviledges of other Churches.

And if (as you profess) you have not changed your Loyalty, I am very apt to believe, the wicked Plot now under Examination (with many of the like nature) may be sufficient to make you abhor the Communion of that Church, whose Morals can hatch such Monsters, and whose Governours do make it their business to Lowbel their pliant Creatures into designs of  
Treason



Treason and Assassination, by the help of false Lights, Bulls and Dispensations; and encourage them in the attempts by the fond applause of Merit, and a Crown of *Red Letters*. In short, the scandal hereof is so foul, it may very well become your ingenuity (and without doubt it will tend much to your reputation and inward peace) to take your leave of such Company, with good old *Jacobs* imprecation, *Gen. 49. 6. O my Soul, come not thou into their secret: unto their assembly, my Honour, be not thou united.* And this is the Advice, which proceeds (though but from the common prudence, yet) from the highest Charity of,

S I R,

*Your most affectionate Friend,  
and faithful Servant,*

L. W.

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F I N I S.